MYSORE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Monday, 15th April 1968.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Vidhana Soudha, Bangalore, at Five Minutes past Twelve of the Clock.

[Mr. Deputy Speaker (SRI D. MANJUNATH) in the chair]

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Compensation in respect of Motor Vehicle tax

516. Sri T. R. SHAMANNA (Fort).—

Will the Minister for Information and Publicity, Transport and Tourism be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the amount of compensation paid to the Bangalore City Corporation in respect of Motor Vehicle Tax ;

(*b*) when this compensation was fixed ;

(*c*) the approximate amount of Motor Vehicles Tax collected in Bangalore City when the compensation was fixed ;

(*d*) the amount of Motor Vehicle Tax collected on vehicles registered in Bangalore City and using corporation roads ;

(*e*) whether they would take steps to give adequate compensation to the Bangalore City Corporation ?

A.—Sri MOHAMED ALI (Minister for Information and Publicity, Transport and Tourism).—

(*a*) Compensation for—

(i) Loss of motor vehicle tax and toll revenue	...	Rs. 1,85,506-50
(ii) Loss of service tax and mileage cess	...	Rs. 2,71,249-59

(*b*) This was fixed in Government order No. HD 26 TMT 60 dated 24th March 1960, with effect from 1st January 1958 on which date the Mysore Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1957 came into force.

(SRI MOHAMED ALI)

(*c*) About Rs. 2,05,890.

(*d*) It is not possible to furnish the total amount of motor vehicle tax collected in respect of vehicles registered in Bangalore City and using Corporation roads as permits are issued to the vehicles (transport vehicles) to operate throughout the State of Mysore.

(*e*) No steps can be taken unless law is amended.

Sri T. R. SHAMANNA.—Sir, in answer to (c), it has been replied that the approximate amount of motor vehicles tax collected in Bangalore City when the compensation was fixed, is Rs. 2,05,890.00. If the figures were to be correct, is it a fact that the Government is getting more than double the compensation amount in Bangalore City as motor vehicles tax ?

Sri MOHAMED ALI.—It includes the mileage cess, the service tax and the loss in the toll tax.

Sri T. R. SHAMANNA.—In Bangalore City the motor vehicles tax collected comes to Rs. 3 crores. At least on City vehicles they receive Rs. 1½ crores. Bangalore City is now 46 square miles and Bangalore City Corporation is spending more than Rs. 75 lakhs. The compensation was fixed long back, nearly ten years ago. The vehicles have gone up nearly by five to six times. Is it not feasible that the compensation payable to Bangalore City Corporation should be enhanced adequately as the Corporation is spending very huge amounts on the maintenance and repairs of roads ?

Sri MOHAMED ALI.—The expenditure that would be incurred by the Corporation, cannot be a criterion for the fixation of compensation. The Bangalore City Corporation was never entitled to motor vehicles tax. They were only entitled for mileage cess and the losses due to Section 31 of the Motor Vehicles Taxation Act. And, therefore, unless there is legislative measure, there is no scope to give more compensation. And I do not think that merely because the Corporation is spending more amount on maintenance of roads, it is entitled for more compensation. The hon'ble Member should know that the Road Transport Corporation is losing Rs. 35 lakhs each year to provide transport facilities to the citizens of Bangalore and urban areas. They have to take both advantage and disadvantage equally.

Sri M. S. KRISHNAN.—In answer to (*d*) the hon'ble Minister says that he is not able to furnish the total amount of motor vehicles tax collected. Could we know the reasons why the Government are not able to actually furnish the amounts ?

Sri MOHAMED ALI.—The question was about the motor vehicle tax collected on the vehicles using Corporation roads. We are not registering vehicles used only in Bangalore City. They use all the roads in the State. Therefore, it was difficult to give the information required by the hon. Member.

Sri SIDDAIAH KASIMATH.—Some of the vehicles which are registered in Bangalore City are used outside the City. May I know whether this applies to them also ?

Sri MOHAMED ALI.—Yes. The moment a person purchases here he registers here and takes it outside.

Sri M. S. KRISHNAN.—Since the traffic in Bangalore City has increased enormously during the past eight years when the original compensation was fixed, is it not justifiable on the part of the Corporation to get more compensation and is it not the duty of Government to consider this aspect and increase the compensation ?

Sri MOHAMED ALI.—If the traffic has increased then it becomes necessary for the Government to make arrangements for traffic facilities.

Sri T. R. SHAMANNA.—The hon. Minister said that they are spending huge amounts for running buses for public in the City. The road buses are not run on gratis basis. They collect money from the travelling public without even giving proper service to the public and they are not doing any favour to the public of Bangalore City by running buses here. Bangalore City Corporation has to maintain roads for running these vehicles as well as government sponsored industries' buses. Whenever representations were made, Government is saying that it would consider the matter sympathetically and give adequate grants. Now the Minister says that it is not possible. Will the Minster take into consideration the amount that the Corporation is spending for maintaining roads to keep the traffic on a satisfactory basis and Will the Government take necessary measures to give adequate grant to the Bangalore City Corporation ? This is the only grant that they are giving and if that is not given, it is a very sorry state of affairs.

Sri MOHAMED ALI.—Sir, it is very difficult to reply such a long question. I never mean to say that the Road Transport Corporation is running under loss in order to do favour to the public. It is the duty of the Government to run buses for the use and benefit of the public.

Sri DIGAMBER RAO B. KAMALANKAR.—May I know the criterion for this compensation to be paid and whether this is applicable to the other parts in the State also ?

Sri MOHAMED ALI.—The criteria has been laid down under Section 21 of the Motor Vehicles Act. The same criteria is applicable to all the Town Municipalities and Municipal Corporations in the State.

Sri M. S. KRISHNAN.—The Minister was pleased to say that the City Corporation is not entitled for any compensation but still it is being given. May I know the position in Bombay, Calcutta and Madras where such compensation is paid ?

Sri MOHAMED ALI.—Under the Act itself we have to bear this compensation on the income that was accruing to the Corporation before 1957. I never said that the Corporation is not entitled for any compensation. I do not know what is the arrangement in the other States.

Sri M. S. KRISHNAN.—If the compensation is very low, will the Government be pleased to consider amending the law ?

Sri MOHAMED ALI.—That is a suggestion for action.

Reorganisation of Industries and Commerce Department

518. Sri G. DUGGAPPA (Bharamasagar).—

Will the Minister for Finance, Planning, Commerce and Industries be pleased to state:—

(*a*) whether there is a proposal to reorganise the Department of Industries and Commerce ;

(*b*) If so, the steps taken by them in this regard ;

(*c*) whether they would appoint an additional Director of Industries and Commerce to be incharge of Small Scale Industries ;

(*d*) whether the Estimate Committee of this House has made any recommendation to this effect ?

A.—Sri RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE (Minister for Finance, Planning, Commerce and Industries).—

(*a*) to (*c*) The matter is under consideration.

(*d*) Yes.

Sri G. DUGGAPPA.—May I know whether Government would tell us the proposals before them regarding the reorganisation of the Industries Department and whether they are appointing a Commissioner of Industries and if so what are the broad lines on which they are contemplating?

Sri RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE.—Sir, there is no proposal to reorganise the whole Directorate of the Industries. The only proposal before the Government is the creation of the post of a Commissioner of Industries which I mentioned in my budget speech. The Industrial Department has been reorganised in 1963. This is only with a view to see that the Director of Industries is not saddled with unecessary burden with regard to the various industries directorates.

Sri G. DUGGAPPA.—Supplementary to (*a*). May I know since how long this question is under consideration by Government and whether you would take a decision soon ?

Sri RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE.—The Ninth Estimates Committee, in its report, recommended that with a view to give more importance to small scale industries, the post of the Joint Director of Industries can be upgraded as Additional Director of Industries and he should be put solely in charge of matters relating to small scale industries. There is still difference of opinion in this regard. The system in other states is different. There is no common system. In some places there